

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



December 14, 1995

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-61-95

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT (AFDC) PROGRAM INFORMING
DOCUMENTS: PUB 62 (11/95), CA 1030 (11/95), AND TEMP 2109 (10/95)

REFERENCE: All County Letter (ACL) No. 90-77 and No. 94-19; All County Welfare Director's Letter of October 30, 1995; Budget Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 1995-1996; AB 836 (Chapter 148, Statutes of 1994) and Portions of AB 1371 (Chapter 306, Statutes of 1995); and The Americans with Disability Act (ADA)

This notice transmits copies of the new AFDC Handbook (PUB 62), Important Information - AFDC (CA 1030), and a "Work Pays" poster (TEMP 2109).

The current revisions of the PUB 62, CA 1030, and TEMP 2109 disseminate information regarding work incentive provisions in existing law to ensure that AFDC clients are aware of these provisions and their effect. Budget language requires that the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) distribute materials to county welfare departments (CWDs) for dissemination to clients as part of the regular intake and redetermination process. Work incentive information is referenced prominently throughout each document. There is information on "Work Pays" along with details on work support provisions, including California Alternative Assistance Program (CAAP), Child Care Programs benefits, Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN), Transitional Medi-Cal (TMC), and Transitional Child Care (TCC), etc.

Simplified text and new formats improve the flow of information, making the PUB 62 and CA 1030 more user-friendly. Program information has been updated and new informing has been incorporated to address Cal-Learn, Wedfare, the process to obtain reasonable accommodation (as required by the ADA), and family planning services, etc. Additionally, the materials have been revised to address a fraudulent application problem identified in the Strategic Plan, "Bringing Integrity to Welfare in California." The forms have been modified to inform clients about unannounced home visits and the viewing of family members, and that AFDC Intentional Program Violation (IPV) penalties will stop benefits for two years, four years, or forever, if they submit multiple applications or submit documents for nonexistent or ineligible children.

An ACL will be released under separate cover that transmits emergency regulations to implement the new AFDC IPV penalties and "Wedfare", which extends TCC to families whose AFDC or CAAP is discontinued because they got married or reunited with their spouse.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION, CA 1030

The CA 1030 is a one-page form that was first developed to comply with the informing provisions in MPP Section 40-107.15 as required by the Hunger Prevention Act of 1988. There is no change in the requirement to provide a copy of the CA 1030 to applicants for AFDC. See ACL No. 90-77.

The CA 1030 includes informing regarding "Work Pays" incentives, identified in the previous "Work Pays" campaign materials - the recipient property limit change from \$1000 to \$2000; the exempt value of a motor vehicle limit change from \$1500 to \$4500; and the allowing of restricted [savings] accounts for recipients up to \$5000. See ACL 94-19.

THE AFDC HANDBOOK, PUB 62

The AFDC Handbook is a reference tool that provides basic information about the AFDC program and linked welfare benefits. Additionally, CWDs can provide copies to any individual or organization that asks for information about the AFDC Program.

The AFDC Handbook has many new and interesting features, such as:

- An open letter from the CDSS Director, Eloise Anderson, in which she speaks about the changes in AFDC that pay the client to work even when he/she does not earn much per hour or has high child care costs. She highlights the work incentives of child care reimbursements and the eligibility for Medi-Cal while working and after they get off AFDC when they make too much money.
- A full page explanation about "Work Pays" on new Page 3.
- Visually enhanced text in a two-color format. Chapter titles run vertical to the page to make it easier for the reader to find program specific information.

Additional information about the changes to the AFDC Handbook are outlined on Attachment 1.

WORK PAYS POSTER, TEMP 2109

The TEMP 2109 has been formatted as an 8 1/2 by 14 inch "Work Pays" informing poster. The TEMP 2109 is designated a "Recommended Form" and is available in a camera-ready format for county printing. This poster is designed to inform AFDC clients of the benefits of getting work, working and transitioning off AFDC. Counties can utilize the poster in client waiting rooms or other appropriate client access areas.

STOCK AND TRANSLATIONS

- State produced stock of the English and Spanish language versions of the PUB 62 and the CA 1030 are free. An initial supply of the English version of the PUB 62 will be shipped to CWDs under separate cover when stock is available. Stock for the CA 1030, CA 1030 (SP), and PUB 62 (SP) may be ordered from the CDSS Warehouse according to the forms ordering procedures in the County Forms Catalog upon receipt of the Notice of Change Form (GEN 127), which is issued when stock is available.

- Counties can obtain a camera-ready copy of the:

- o English or Spanish versions of the TEMP 2109 by calling the Forms Management Unit at (916) 657-1984 or CALNET at 437-1984;
- o Asian language versions (Chinese, Cambodian, and Vietnamese) of the PUB 62, CA 1030, or the TEMP 2109 document by calling the Language Services Bureau at (916) 654-1282 or CALNET at 323-1282 or they may FAX their request to (916) 657-3429 or CALNET at 322-3429.

If you have any questions about this letter or the attachments, please call Elizabeth Allred of the AFDC Policy Implementation Bureau at (916) 657-3350; or CALNET at 437-3350; about the AFDC IPVs, the Fraud Bureau at (916) 445-0031 or CALNET 485-0031; about the Spanish or Asian translations, Shirley LuKung, at (916) 654-1277 or CALNET at 464-1277.

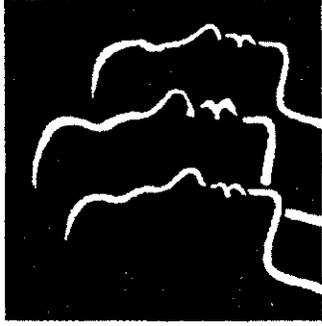
Sincerely,

Walter Baum
BRUCE WAGSTAFF *for BW*
Deputy Director
Welfare Programs Division

Attachments

c: CWDA

AFDC Handbook



CDSS

CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

SAMPLE



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

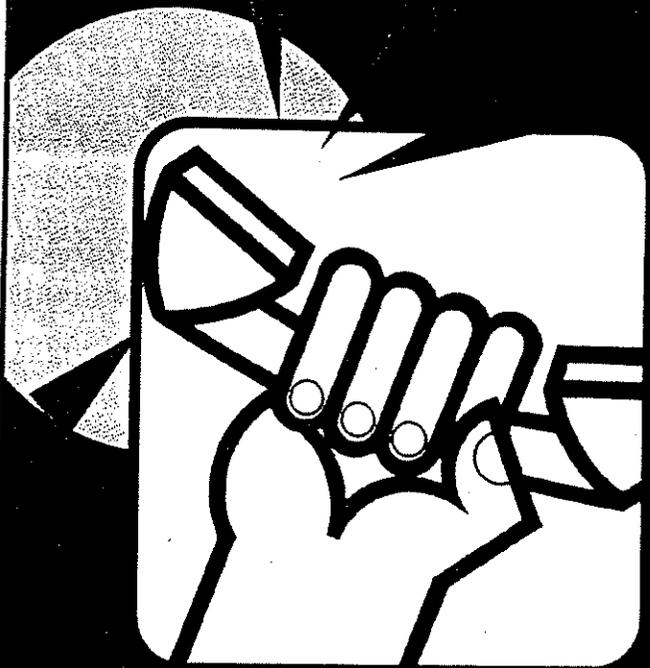
Pete Wilson, Governor

HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

Sandra R. Smoley, R.N., Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Eloise Anderson, Director



If you are eligible for AFDC, you can get cash aid benefits and services. Know your rights and responsibilities. It's your responsibility to meet the rules called regulations. Ask your worker if you aren't sure what they are.

Save this handbook, which tells you about some of the rules of AFDC. This handbook does not give you all of the rules. Your county has a copy of the State regulations that you may read.

Put your case name and number here:

Case Name _____

Social Security Number (SSN) _____

You'll get faster service when you contact us, if you give us your case name and SSN.

If you want more facts,
ask your worker or write to:

California Department
of Social Services
Public Inquiry and Response
744 P Street, M.S. 16-23
Sacramento, CA 95814

Or you may call toll-free
1 (800) 952-5253
or for the hearing impaired
(TDD) 1 (800) 952-8349



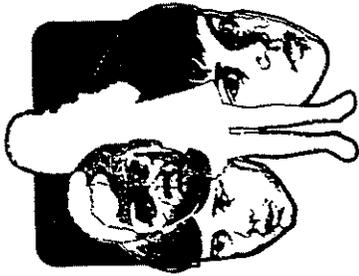
CDSS
CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The law says that all applicants/recipients for aid, benefits, or services are to be treated fairly without regard to race, color, national origin, political affiliation, religion, marital status, sex, age, or disability.

If you think you have been discriminated against, you may file a complaint by:

1. contacting your county's Civil Rights Coordinator;
2. or writing to:
 - ◆ the State's Civil Rights Bureau
P.O. Box 944243, M.S. 15-70
Sacramento, CA 94244-2430
 - ◆ or for Food Stamps - to the
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Food and Consumer Service
Civil Rights Office
550 Kearney Street
San Francisco, CA 94108-2518
 - ◆ or for Other Programs - to the
U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services
Office for Civil Rights
50 United Nations Plaza
San Francisco, CA 94102



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

*The Aid to Families with
Dependent Children (AFDC)
Program provides you with cas
aid and other services to help*

*your family during a short-term financial crisis. AFDC is not
intended to be a long-term substitute for your responsibility to
provide support for your children. And it's definitely not
intended to be a way of life.*

*With recent changes in the AFDC program, it pays to
work, even if you don't earn much per hour and have high child
care costs. This is a good time to take advantage of employment
training programs and the opportunities for part-time and full-
time employment. We can even help you with your child care
expenses and continue your Medi-Cal while you work. What
that means is if you get AFDC and you work, you will have
more money than someone who gets AFDC and doesn't work.*

*And when you go off AFDC because you make too much
money, you can keep getting Medi-Cal and help with your child
care costs to make it easier to stay off AFDC and keep on
working.*

*Use your time on AFDC to benefit you and your family.
Do it for your children; do it for yourself.*

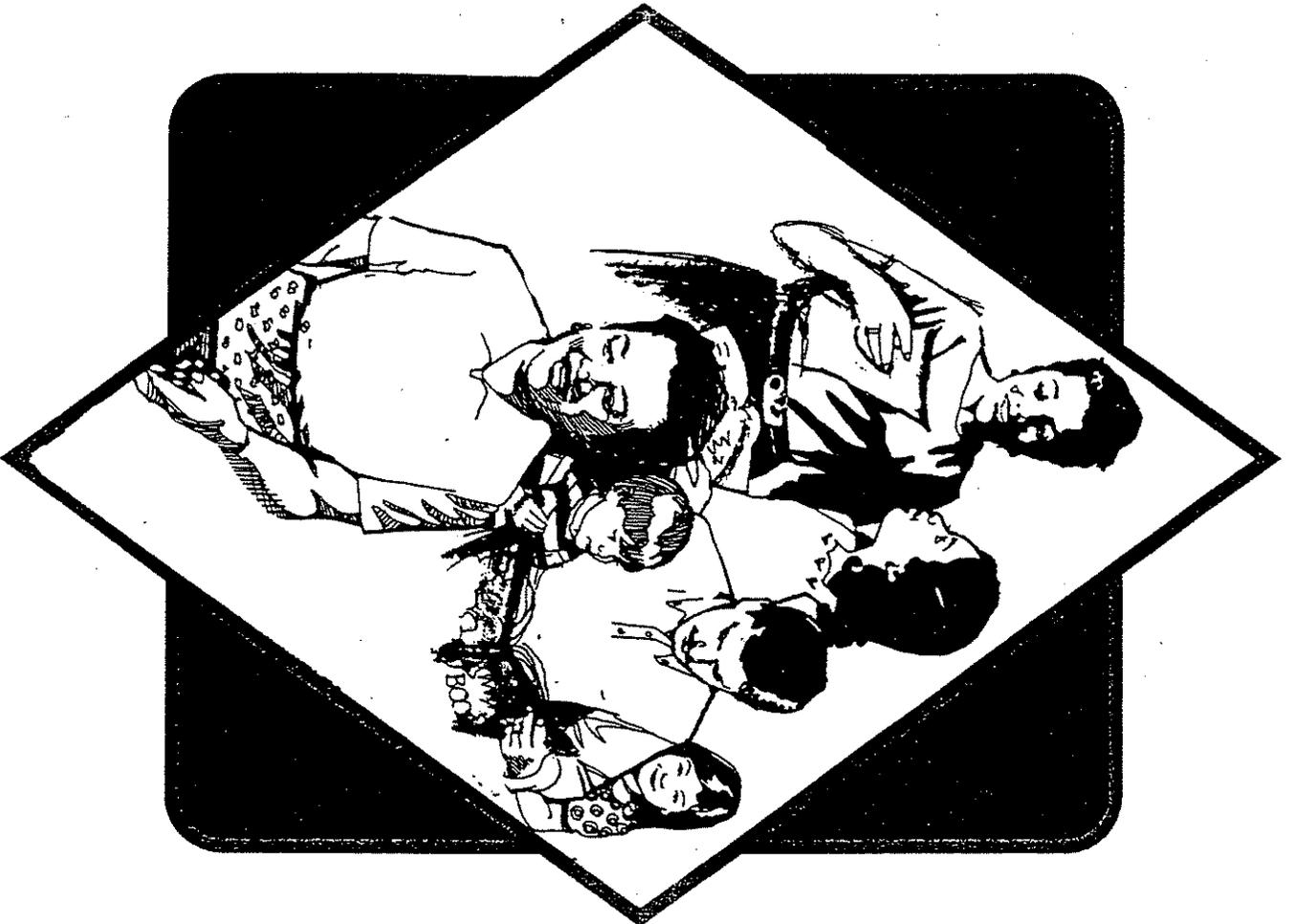
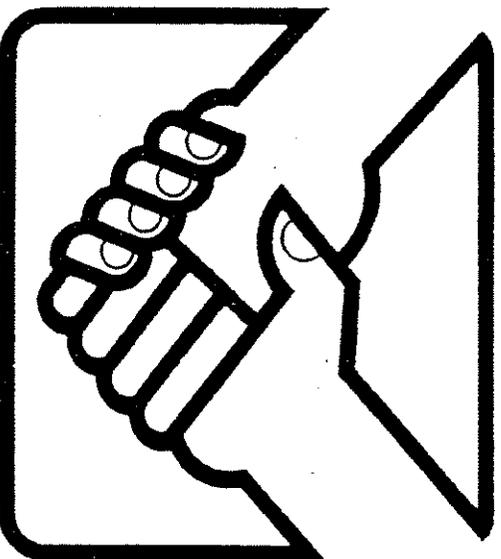

ELOISE ANDERSON, DIRECTOR

OTHER FACTS ABOUT PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES

The following pamphlets are printed by the State and may be available at your County Welfare Department:

- ◆ Work Pays Brochure (PUB 232)
- ◆ Medi-Cal – What It Means To You (PUB 68)
- ◆ Your Rights Under California Welfare Programs (PUB 13)
- ◆ Child Support Information Handbook (PUB 160)
- ◆ CHDP – California's Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (PUB 16), (PUB 19), AND (PUB 25) (Spanish)

Your county may have other pamphlets you may want to read. Ask your worker about them.



STATE HEARINGS

If you think a county action is wrong, you may ask for a State hearing through the county or the State.

A State hearing request is on the back of the Notice of Action (NOA) form which the county sends you whenever there is a change in your aid or services. The back of the NOA tells you how and where to send your hearing request. Or you may ask for a hearing by calling toll free the California Department of Social Services at

1 - (800) 952-5253
or for the hearing impaired
(TDD) 1 - (800) 952-8349.

If you think the action the county is taking is wrong, you must ask for a State hearing within 90 days of the mailing date of the notice telling you of the action the county plans to take. If you are getting aid and ask for a hearing before the beginning date of the action, you may continue to get the same aid until the hearing. If the Administrative Law Judge decides the county action was right, an overpayment will be collected from you. If you do not wish this to happen, you may choose to get less aid until the hearing. A hearing is usually set within 30 days of your request.

Before the hearing, a county representative will call you to discuss your case. This person will review the county actions before the hearing to see if errors were made. At the hearing, the Administrative Law Judge will listen to you and the county and review the evidence. You must go to the hearing or send someone to represent you. You may bring witnesses and someone to represent you. You may question the county and its witnesses.

If you and/or your representative want to see the regulations and some of the facts in your case, you may call the county to set a date and time to do this before the hearing. You can get copies for free or at little cost.

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AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN (AFDC)

AFDC gives cash aid and services to families with an eligible needy child(ren) who is deprived of parental support or care because of the absence, disability, death, or unemployment of the principal earner when both parents are in the home. Needy caretaker relatives of a foster child(ren) may also be eligible for cash aid. AFDC is under federal and state laws and regulations, but the program is run by your county.

What You Must Do To Get Cash Aid

You must give the county facts and proof to show you are eligible for AFDC. Your facts are computer matched with facts from tax, welfare, employment, the Social Security Administration, and other agencies. Differences in facts may be checked out with employers, banks, and others.

You must cooperate with the county, state, and federal staff. A county worker can come to your home at any time to check out your facts, including seeing each family member, without calling ahead of time. You may not get benefits or your benefits may be stopped if you don't cooperate.

If you hide facts or give wrong facts on purpose to get cash aid or get the wrong amount of cash aid, you can be tried for welfare fraud. If found guilty, you may be fined up to \$10,000 and/or sent to jail/prison for 5 years. Your cash aid can be stopped for six months, twelve months, or forever. Or if found guilty of filing two or more applications for cash aid at the same time or of giving the county false proof for an ineligible child or one that does not exist, your cash aid can be stopped for two years, four years or forever.

You should tell the county if you have a disability and need help applying for or continuing to receive aid, benefits, and services.

- ◆ When anyone gets married, separated, or divorced.
- ◆ When anyone gets, sells, or gives away property, such as a home, a car, and money in a bank account.
- ◆ When anyone's illness or injury begins or ends.
- ◆ When anyone's citizenship/immigration status changes or anyone gets a new card or letter from INS.
- ◆ When anyone becomes pregnant, gives birth, or ends a pregnancy.
- ◆ When a recipient is working and has costs for care of a child or other dependent, or whose dependent care arrangements change.
- ◆ When anyone starts, stops or changes life, dental, or health insurance benefits, including MEDICARE.
- ◆ When anyone gets health care coverage, their insurance changes, or health insurance becomes available as a result of employment.

Monthly Reporting

Each month you must fill out the CA 7/SAWS 7, sign, and return it to the county by the 6th of the month. On the CA 7/SAWS 7 you must report any income, child care costs, and any other household change(s) even if you have already reported the changes in person or by telephone.

If you work, you must attach pay stubs and other proof of income, dependent care costs, and other allowable expenses to the CA 7/SAWS 7.

If the county does not get your complete CA 7/SAWS 7 by the 11th of the month, your cash aid will be lowered, delayed, or stopped. And you will not get work related deductions.

If you're not sure how to report, what to report, or what proof you need to send in, ask your worker.

YOUR REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

You must report all changes to the county within five days of the change AND every month you must give the county a complete Monthly Eligibility Report (CA 7/SAWS 7). When we say "You," "Anyone," or "Everyone" we mean everyone receiving cash aid, the child(ren)'s parents, stepparents, and your spouse.

You must report:

- ◆ When anyone gets money (including lump sums) from work, relatives, Social Security, Unemployment Insurance (UIB), Veterans benefits, tax refunds, or any other source.
- ◆ When anyone's job or training program starts or changes.
- ◆ When anyone's income or source of income changes, starts, or stops.
- ◆ When anyone starts, stops, or graduates from school, college or training.
- ◆ When there are changes in your family, including temporary absences, such as when anyone:
 - moves or plans to move into or out of the home.
 - visits or plans to visit somewhere else for a period of time.
 - moves to another address or gets a new mailing address.
 - dies.
- ◆ If you move to another county and you want to keep getting benefits, you must tell the county you are leaving and the county you are moving to.

How Much Cash Aid Will You Get?

The maximum aid payment you can get depends on your eligible family size and income. What you report each month will be used to figure the amount of cash aid you get. If your income drops or stops, you may be able to get more money. If you get a large sum of money (lump sum), you may not continue to be eligible for AFDC. Call your worker before you spend any of it.

How Long Will It Take To Get Your First AFDC Check?

If you are eligible for cash aid and provide all the facts we ask for, your check should be mailed to you within 45 days from the date you applied.

If you have little or no cash and have an emergency situation, such as you are without food, housing, clothing, medical care, or your utilities will be shut off, etc., tell the county you want to apply for Immediate Need. If you are eligible for Immediate Need, you can get a part of your cash aid sooner.

California Alternative Assistance Program (CAAP)

If you are working and only want child care and Medi-Cal benefits (but not cash aid), you may want to apply for CAAP. To be in CAAP, you must be approved for AFDC. You may also be able to get food stamps. You can choose to be in CAAP only at the time of application for AFDC or at your annual review of eligibility for AFDC.

WORK PAYS YOU CAN WORK AND STILL GET CASH AID



Working:

- ◆ gives you more \$\$\$\$ in your pocket to help support your family.
- ◆ improves your chances for building a better life for you and your family.
- ◆ develops job skills.
- ◆ builds self-esteem.
- ◆ gives you personal satisfaction.

Here's how "Work Pays"

When you work, your gross earnings (earnings before deductions) are not subtracted dollar for dollar from your cash aid payment. You are eligible for work-related and dependent (child and/or adult) care deductions.

If your child care costs are more than these deductions, you can get child care benefits to help you pay your costs. See Page 4 for more facts about child care benefits.

When you add the amount of your earnings to the amount of your cash aid, you will have more \$\$\$\$ for your family.

You can get a salary and cash aid as long as you remain eligible and meet reporting rules in a timely manner.

Ask your worker for more facts about "Work Pays."

Remember . . . When you don't work, the most \$\$\$\$ you can get is the maximum aid payment based on your family size.

- ◆ To ask for payments for ongoing special needs like a special diet, special transportation costs for ongoing medical care, special laundry service, telephone for the hard of hearing, or high use of utilities because of a disability, etc.

- ◆ To be given a written notice when your application is approved, denied, or when your benefits are changed or stopped.

- ◆ To have your cash aid records kept confidential unless there is an outstanding felony arrest warrant issued for you, or as otherwise provided by law.

- ◆ To talk with someone from the county or to file a formal complaint against the county if you don't agree with an action taken by the county. You may also ask for a State Hearing within 90 days of the county's action.

YOUR RIGHTS

When you apply for and receive AFDC benefits you have the following rights:

- ◆ To ask for help to complete your application or any other form.
- ◆ To ask for forms and notices to be translated if you don't read English.
- ◆ To be treated with courtesy, consideration, and respect.
- ◆ To be interviewed as soon as possible by the county when you apply and to have your eligibility determined within 45 days.
- ◆ To discuss your case with the county and to review your case yourself when you request to do so.
- ◆ To be told the rules for getting cash aid right away when you have an emergency situation. If the county thinks you might be eligible to get cash aid right away, you will get an interview within one day.
- ◆ To get Medi-Cal as soon as possible, if you have a medical emergency or are pregnant.
- ◆ To continue getting cash aid without a break if you move from one county to another and you remain eligible.
- ◆ To ask for extra money if your income drops or stops.
- ◆ To ask for payments for clothing, housing, or essential household items which are lost, damaged, or otherwise unavailable due to sudden and unusual circumstances.

CHILD CARE BENEFITS

Dependent Care Earned Income Disregard: When you are working and on cash aid, you are eligible for a disregard (a deduction up to a maximum) for your child and adult care costs.

California Alternative Assistance Program (CAAP): The CAAP Program can help pay your child care costs if you are working and approved for cash aid, but choose not to get cash aid. You will get Medi-Cal and may be able to get food stamps. You can choose to be in CAAP only at time of application for AFDC or at the annual review of eligibility for AFDC.

Supplemental Child Care Program (SCC): If you work and get cash aid, the SCC Program will help you pay your child care costs that are more than the amount allowed as a child care disregard.

Non-GAIN Education and Training Program (NET): If you get cash aid and are unable to be in Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN), NET may help pay your child care if it is needed for you to attend a county-approved educational and training program leading to employment. See Page 5 for facts about GAIN.

Transitional Child Care (TCC) Program: If your family goes off cash aid or CAAP because of increased earnings, or if you got married or got back with your spouse, you may be eligible to get TCC to help pay your child care costs for up to 12 months after you are ineligible for AFDC.

At Risk Child Care Program (ARCCP): If your family has a limited income and is not on cash aid, CAAP, or TCC and a member of the family is working and needs child care so that he/she can continue to work, ARCCP may help pay his/her child care costs. For more facts you may call: 1-800-998-9114.

Each program has different rules. Ask your worker about the rules.

GREATER AVENUES FOR INDEPENDENCE (GAIN)

GAIN stands for Greater Avenues for Independence. The purpose of the GAIN program is to teach, train, counsel, and help you find a job. GAIN provides you with help such as child care, transportation, and work-or training-related expenses. GAIN can help you get the job-related skills you will need.



Work and Training Rules

The county will tell you what you need to do before and after your application for cash aid is approved, such as taking part in GAIN or Cal-Learn. If you don't follow the work and training rules and don't have a good reason, the county may change the amount of your cash aid.

Cal-Learn

The Cal-Learn Program helps pregnant and/or parenting teens under the age of 19, who are getting cash aid and do not have a high school diploma or its equivalent, stay in or return to school. Teens in the Cal-Learn Program may get cash bonuses for good grades and may get help with child care, transportation, and other services needed to go to school. Cash penalties may be subtracted from their family's cash aid payment for not going to school or for getting poor grades.

SOCIAL SERVICES

In addition to cash aid, food stamps, and Medi-Cal the county provides other services:

- ◆ Emergency Response Program is a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week Child Protective Services Program (CPS). A County CPS worker will check on reports of alleged child neglect and child abuse to determine whether it is safe for the child to stay in the home. The county may provide services to help the family.
- ◆ Adult Protective Services (APS) responds to alleged physical, mental, and/or financial abuse of elderly and dependent adults that occurs in the home.
- ◆ In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) helps pay for certain necessary care so that eligible aged, blind, or disabled persons may remain in their home.
- ◆ Out-of-Home Care for Adults is an APS program to assist eligible persons in relocating to an out-of-home facility.

Check with the county if you want more facts about these services.

CHILD/MEDICAL SUPPORT FROM ABSENT PARENTS



If you have a child(ren) in your AFDC household whose parent is absent, your worker may refer you to the District Attorney/Family Support Division (DA/FSD). The DA/FSD will try to get the absent parent to make child support payments and provide health insurance for the child(ren).

If you get child support payments directly from the absent parent while you are receiving cash aid, you must turn this amount over to the county. This support money will be used to pay back the county for the cash aid you have received.

If the county gets your monthly child support payment, you will be paid the first \$50 of the money collected. If the support money is less than \$50, you will get the entire amount. This is a separate payment to you and it will not change your AFDC eligibility or cash aid.

You must cooperate and give all facts to the county and the DA/FSD about the absent parent unless you have established "good cause." Good cause means that you have a good reason for not cooperating. Your eligibility may change if you refuse or fail to cooperate without having good cause.

The DA/FSD will try to determine who is the child's legal parent. It is important to the child to determine who is the legal parent, as the child may be entitled to Social Security benefits based on the death or disability of the parent, inheritance from the parent's estate, pension money, or benefits if the parent was a veteran.

When you go off cash aid, the DA/FSD will still collect child support for you. If you don't want the DA/FSD to collect child support for you, write and ask that the DA/FSD stop collecting it for you.

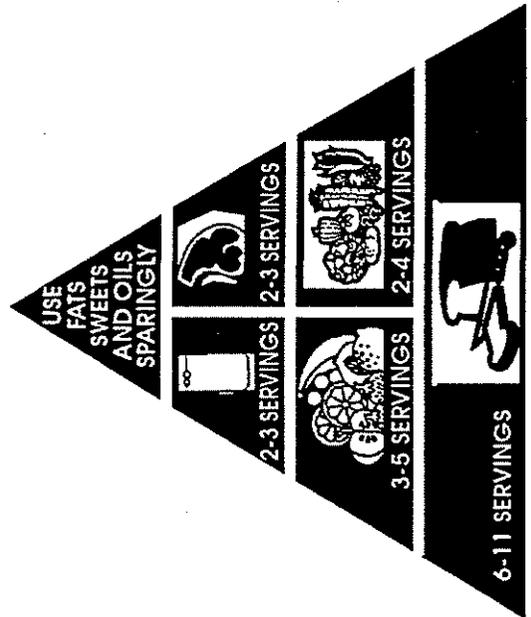
If you continue on Medi-Cal, the DA/FSD will continue the health insurance part of the child support. If you go off Medi-Cal and don't want the DA/FSD to continue collecting the health insurance part of the child support, write and ask that the DA/FSD stop collecting it for you.

FOOD STAMPS

You may be eligible for food stamps, even if you are not eligible for AFDC. Unless you say that you do not want food stamps when you apply for AFDC, your application will be used for both AFDC and food stamps. Your household's income and property will be used to decide if you are eligible and the amount of food stamps you can get. A food stamp household can be a person, a family, or a group of people who live together and buy and fix their food together.

If you are eligible for food stamps, you will be told the value of the food stamps you will get to help meet your monthly food needs. You can use food stamps to buy food at stores that take food stamps. They cannot be traded for money or be used for nonfood items, such as tobacco, liquor, pet food, vitamins, soap, paper products or lottery tickets.

The way you get your food stamps differs from county to county. Some counties send the food stamps through the mail. In other counties you pick them up. Your worker will tell you where and how you can get your food stamps, or tell you more about the food stamp program.



HEALTH SERVICES



Medi-Cal

If you are eligible for AFDC you will get Medi-Cal. You will get a Benefits Identification Card (BIC) in the mail. Your BIC will pay for most of your medical costs.

When you use your BIC, your provider (doctor, pharmacist, dentist, etc.) will need to verify your eligibility for treatment/services, and what Medi-Cal will pay for.

Your provider will tell you:

- ◆ what treatment/services your BIC covers.
- ◆ if you need prior approval.
- ◆ if you need to make a "co-payment."

Not all doctors, pharmacists, dentists, etc. accept Medi-Cal. Find out if they take Medi-Cal before you make an appointment.

Never throw your BIC card away. Even if you go off cash aid, you may still be able to get Medi-Cal. And your BIC card will be good if you go off Medi-Cal and come back on later. **NOTE:** You will not get a new plastic ID card (BIC) every month, but it can be replaced if it is lost or stolen.

If you have private health insurance you must report it to the county. You will not lose your Medi-Cal services because you have health insurance.

There are two ways to get Medi-Cal services depending on the area you live in. In some areas you may choose to sign up for a Medi-Cal health care plan if there are any in your area, or you may be required to sign-up for a health care plan. In other areas you may choose your provider from those who accept Medi-Cal. You will get more facts about health care plans at the time you apply or reapply for benefits.

Transitional Medi-Cal (TMC)

You may get Medi-Cal for up to 12 months if you go off cash aid because you are working. Your family must have gotten cash aid for at least three of the last six months before your cash aid stopped. To get more than six months of TMC your income must be under certain limits and you must meet TMC reporting rules.

Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP)

If you get cash aid, members of your family who are under age 21 are eligible for free health and dental examinations, including a complete physical, immunizations (shots), eye, and hearing tests, and facts about growth and development. These regular medical and dental exams help protect your family's health and are available through the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP).

Even if you are not on cash aid, your child may still be eligible for CHDP services. For more information, contact your local CHDP program office, which is located in the County Health Department.

Family Planning Services

Family planning is about having babies when you're ready and preventing unplanned pregnancies. Family planning and pregnancy prevention services are free to people who get AFDC. Services include birth control for men and women, pregnancy testing and counseling, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs and HIV/AIDS), and breast and cervical cancer exams.

You can get family planning services through health care plans, private doctors, and community clinics. You can choose the birth control method that is right for you.

Medi-Cal, other insurance, or the California Office of Family Planning can pay for this care. Medi-Cal clients, including those enrolled in health care plans, have a right to go to a doctor or clinic of their choice for family planning services. The doctor or clinic does not have to be a part of the health plan.

For Family Planning Services, call your health care plan or regular doctor. Or for information and the location of confidential Family Planning Clinics near you, call 1-800-942-1054.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN (AFDC)



AFDC

AFDC is a cash aid program for the care of needy children when one or both of the parents are absent, disabled, dead, or the principal earner in a two parent family is unemployed (working less than 100 hours in a month at the time of application).

AFDC rules come from Federal and State laws and regulations. The county uses these rules. These rules may change at any time.

AFDC is designed to assist people during a short-term crisis and it is not intended to become a long-term solution to the crisis. The goal of AFDC is for recipients who are able to work to get a job and to become self-supporting.

APPLYING FOR AFDC

If anyone has a disability and needs help applying for or continuing to receive cash aid, benefits, and services, they need to tell the county.

A family can ask for cash aid and/or food stamps by filling out an application at the County Welfare office. A family can ask for food stamps and cash aid at the same time by filing a joint application and having one interview. The family must complete the Statement of Facts and/or answer questions during the eligibility interview. If the family has little or no cash and they need housing, food, utilities, clothing, or medical care, they can ask for help right away. If they appear to qualify they may be eligible for immediate need payments.

The county needs to know certain facts to find out if the family meets all the AFDC rules. The family must do all they can to get the facts. If they need help getting the facts or proof, the family can give the county permission to help them get it. If the family does not cooperate, the county may deny the application.

An official can go to the family's home without advance notice to check out their facts, including seeing the family members.

AFDC RULES

Here are some of the rules that everyone must meet to get cash aid.

- **Social Security Number (SSN):** Everyone, even babies, must have a SSN. If someone does not have a SSN, he/she must apply for one within 30 days of the application for cash aid and give the SSN to the county when they get it.
- **Citizenship/Immigrant status:** Everyone getting cash aid must either be a U.S. citizen or have legal immigrant status. They will need to give their county worker proof that everyone in their family getting cash aid is a citizen or a legal immigrant. This information may be checked with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The facts the county gets from INS may affect whether they get cash aid.

- **Residents of California:** Everyone getting aid must be living and planning to stay in California.
 - **Work With the District Attorney:** All families who get cash aid because of an absent parent(s) must help the District Attorney/Family Support Division (DA/FSDD) find the absent parent(s) and get child, medical, and/or spousal support. The DA/FSDD with the family's help, will try to find out who and where the absent parent(s) is. There are many reasons why it is important to know who the parent is and where the parent lives. This may include getting a possible inheritance, pension money, or Social Security benefits.
 - **Age:** Children who are 18 years of age can get cash aid only if they are in school full-time and expect to finish high school before they turn 19.
 - **Monthly Report:** Families getting cash aid must send in a report to the county each month. This report is called the Monthly Report. If it is not complete and/or is not turned in on time, their cash aid could be lowered or stopped.
 - **Applicant Property Limit:** There is a \$1,000 limit on the amount of property (such as bank accounts, stocks, real estate, etc.) an applicant family can have and still be approved for cash aid. The value of one car that is less than \$1,500 will not be counted as part of this limit. The family's home is not part of this limit as long as they are living in it.
 - **Recipient Property Limit:** There is a \$2,000 limit on the amount of property (such as bank accounts, stocks, real estate, etc.) a family on cash aid can have and keep getting cash aid. The value of one car that is less than \$4,500 will not be counted as part of this limit. The family's home is not part of this limit as long as they are living in it.
- In addition, a family on cash aid can keep up to \$5,000 in a restricted account(s). This amount does not count against the \$2,000 recipient property limit. The family must sign an agreement with the county before they can have a restricted account(s). Money saved in a restricted account(s) has specific rules that the family has to follow.
- **Lump Sum Rule:** If the family gets a lot of money at one time (lump sum), they may have to go off AFDC and live on that money for a period of time before they can go back on AFDC.

There are other rules which the family's worker will tell them about. If they do not understand any rule, they should ask their worker to explain it.

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION

AFDC PAYMENTS

The amount a family can get depends on the income and size of the family. Cash aid is paid by check. If a check is lost, stolen, or destroyed, the family should call their worker right away. They may be able to get it replaced.

If a family is paid too much cash aid, they will have to pay back the amount they should not have gotten. And if they are getting cash aid, their benefits may be lowered or stopped.

WELFARE FRAUD

If a recipient on purpose fails to report all the facts, gives wrong facts, or doesn't follow program rules, he/she may be fined up to \$10,000 and/or sent to jail for 5 years. And cash aid can be stopped for 6 months, 12 months or forever. Or if found guilty of filing two or more applications for cash aid at the same time or of giving the county false proof for an ineligible child or one that does not exist, cash aid can be stopped for 2 years, 4 years, or forever.

AFDC BENEFITS

Cash aid helps a family pay for their housing, food, and daily needs. If the family is on cash aid there are other programs and benefits they may get. Some of these are as follows:

- **Work Pays Rules:** If someone in the family works while on cash aid (and remains eligible), the family will have more money to live on. They will get money from both the job and cash aid. When they report their earnings on time each month, they are eligible for work-related and child or adult care deductions. If their child care costs are more than these deductions, he/she will get other child care benefits. See the next column for facts about child care programs.
- **Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) Program:** The GAIN program helps cash aid recipients and their family members get job-related skills and jobs. GAIN participants may get help with child care, transportation, and work-or training-related expenses.
- **Cal-Learn Program:** This program helps pregnant and/or parenting teens under the age of 19 who are getting cash aid and do not have a high school diploma or its equivalent, stay in or return to school. Teens in the Cal-Learn Program may get cash bonuses for good grades and graduation from high school. They may also get help with child care, transportation, and other services. There are cash penalties subtracted from their family's cash aid payment for not going to school or for getting poor grades.
- **Medical Coverage:** A family getting cash aid will also get Medi-Cal. Medi-Cal will pay for some of their medical costs.

CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

- **Supplemental Child Care (SCC):** When an AFDC recipient is working, SCC may help in paying for child care costs that are more than the amount allowed as a child care disregard (deduction).

- **Non-GAIN Education and Training Program (NET):** When a family is on cash aid and unable to be in GAIN, they may get help paying for child care if it is needed in order for them to attend a county-approved education or training program.
- **California Alternative Assistance Program (CAAP):** This program can help a family pay for child care costs if an AFDC applicant/recipient is working and approved for cash aid, but chooses not to get cash aid. CAAP can only be chosen at the time of AFDC application or at the annual review of AFDC eligibility. The CAAP participant will get Medi-Cal and may be able to get food stamps.
- **Transitional Child Care (TCC):** If a family goes off cash aid or CAAP because of increased earnings, or if they got married or got back with their spouse, they may be eligible to get TCC to help pay their child care costs for up to 12 months after they become ineligible for AFDC.
- **At Risk Child Care Program (ARCCP):** If the family has a limited income and is not on cash aid, CAAP, or TCC and a member of the family is working and needs child care so that he/she can continue to work, ARCCP may help pay for child care costs. Call 1-800-998-9114 for more information.

TRANSITIONAL MEDI-CAL (TMC)

The family may get Medi-Cal for up to 12 months if they go off cash aid because of work. The family must have gotten cash aid for at least 3 of the last 6 months before cash aid stopped. To get more than 6 months of TMC, the family's income must be under certain limits and the family must meet TMC reporting rules.

FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES

Family planning and pregnancy prevention services are available free to people who get AFDC. Services include birth control methods for men and women, pregnancy testing and counseling, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs and HIV/AIDS), breast and cervical cancer exams, and more. For family planning services, call your health care plan or regular doctor. Or, for information and the location of confidential family planning clinics, call toll-free: 1-800-942-1054.

CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION

Children under the age of 21 may get free medical/dental checkups, including a complete physical, immunizations (shots), eye and hearing tests, and facts about growth and development.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The law says that all applicants/recipients for aid, benefits, or services are to be treated fairly. If anyone thinks they have been discriminated against, they should contact the county's civil rights coordinator.

WORK PAYS

IN SO MANY WAYS

YOU CAN WORK AND STILL GET CASH AID

Working:

- gives you more \$\$\$\$ in your pocket to help support your family.**
- improves your chances for building a better life for you and your family.**
- develops job skills.**
- builds self-esteem.**
- gives you personal satisfaction.**

Here's how "Work Pays"

When you work, your gross earnings (earnings before deductions) are not subtracted dollar for dollar from your cash aid payment. You are eligible for work-related and dependent (child and/or adult) care deductions.

If your child care costs are more than these deductions, you can get child care benefits to help you pay your costs. Ask your worker about these child care benefits.

When you add the amount of your earnings to the amount of your cash aid, you will have more \$\$\$\$ for you family.

You can get a salary and cash aid as long as you remain eligible and meet

Ask your worker for more facts about "Work Pays."

Remember...When you don't work, the most \$\$\$\$ you can get is the maximum aid payment for your family size.

